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CHDS Administers Executive Education Seminar for the U.S. Territory of Guam

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CHDS Administers Executive Education Seminar for the U.S. Territory of Guam

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The Center for Homeland Defense and Security's Mobile Education Team recently facilitated a Homeland Security Executive Education Seminar for the U.S. Territory of Guam. The two day seminar, requested by Governor Felix Camacho, focused on policy and strategy issues facing the territory's homeland security infrastructure and leadership. Key homeland security leaders and emergency responders were on hand to discuss Guam's most pertinent homeland security issues. Topics included prevention, protection, response, and recovery as it relates to the influx of foreign workers who will support the military buildup. Leaders also addressed issues of intelligence and information sharing.



"The military build up on the island may require the influx of 15-20,000 foreign workers to support construction of new facilities over the next several years. The sheer numbers will challenge an already fragile infrastructure and trigger a host of other concerns such as public health, law enforcement, social and housing needs," said David Fukutomi, CHDS Subject Matter Expert and Lead Facilitator for the event. "The vast majority of the workers will come from areas, such as the Philippines and south Asia, with known and active terrorist organizations. With the sheer numbers it's hard not to ignore the fact that some will harbor sympathies and or potentially be members of the terrorist organizations."

Fukutomi said that Guam is often an after thought. "Although somewhat isolated and thousands of miles from the US mainland, it is at the forefront of the nation's homeland and national security and faces an array of challenges everyday... On the mainland in crisis situations, additional resources, such as mutual aid are almost taken for granted. However Guam's isolation requires that it to be more self sufficient as help is thousands of miles and often times several days away. Public policy and strategic decision making are even more critical as a result. The MET workshops are an important investment in helping Guam's leadership overcome the challenges it faces."

"This was an excellent opportunity for the island's top officials to re-examine our existing protocols and procedures and incorporate measures that will account for the anticipated challenges and increased threats that will accompany the buildup military activities," said Guam's Civil Defense Administrator Chuck Ada.

CHDS in collaboration with DHS and various federal agencies, state and local officials, associations, and advocacy organizations developed the curriculum for this seminar. The MET team consists of nationally recognized experts in various areas related to homeland security. The Center has conducted more than 130 executive MET seminars for over 3,000 senior local, state and federal officials.

